



DAILY NATION

Kenya introduces constitution draft for citizen debate

November 17, 2009

Public debate on the new constitution starts on Tuesday after the Committee of Experts formally publishes its draft in Nairobi.

The experts will ask Kenyans to give their views on the proposed constitution, which seeks to fundamentally change the way the country is governed. This will be the chance for the public to take part in the process.

After the one-month debate, the experts will have another 21 days to incorporate citizens' views in the draft. Then, they will turn it over to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the constitution.

Politicians are divided over how power is to be shared within the Executive branch. Teams from both ODM and PNU have been set up to build consensus and are scheduled to meet on Tuesday on how to resolve the difference.

The experts are proposing government changes at three levels. At the national level, Parliament will have two chambers — the senate and the national assembly. The national assembly will be more powerful and will be responsible for the appointment of a prime minister, who will be head of government. There will also be governments at regional and county levels.

But the parties agree that a hybrid system is the best. "The committee considered that neither the pure presidential or pure parliamentary system would be suitable today," reads the report.

To read the original article, click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Ben Breit at (202) 777-3514 or bbreit@clsdc.com.

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009 NOV 23 AM 10:04

#574



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**Embassy of Kenya
Washington, D.C.**

Statement from Ambassador H.E. Peter Ogego on the Release of New Kenyan Constitution:

"On Tuesday, Kenya's Committee of Experts, the body charged with steering Kenya's constitutional review, released a draft of the new Kenyan Constitution. This represents a major landmark on Kenya's path of political and constitutional reform, a process that was initiated after the 2007 election violence.

The new constitution is based on ten cardinal principles that will pave the way for a united and more democratic Kenya. Among these principles are: sharing of executive power among the president and prime minister, a decentralized government with constraints on executive power, a new two chamber parliament and a Supreme Court.

The Committee of Experts also proposes changes to the electoral process to avoid election disputes in the future.

President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga are grateful to the Committee of Experts for their hard work. The release of this Constitution marks a new beginning for Kenya and an important opportunity for all Kenyans to participate in transforming their country in a democratic and transparent manner. There now follows a period of public consultation on the document with the final draft to be voted on by the Kenyan people in a referendum there after."

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